IN THE CLAIMS

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (new) A method of imaging atherosclerotic plaques in a host comprising:

introducing a diagnostically effective amount of detectably labeled human or humanized monoclonal antibody (Mab) or fragment thereof, human monoclonal antibody fragment (Fab), single chain fragment (scFv), or small molecule analog into the host vasculature, said antibody being specific for oxidation specific epitopes present in the core of atherosclerotic plaques and the antibody is specific for oxidized low density lipoprotein (OxLDL) and malondialdehyde low density lipoprotein (MDA-LDL), and binding to such epitopes *in vivo* at a detectably higher rate than the rate of binding to normal vasculature; and

determining whether the antibody binds to the vasculature, wherein the binding of said antibody to the vasculature is indicative of the presence of atherosclerotic plaques.

28. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectably labeled Fab is IK17.

29. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectably labeled scFv is IK17.

30. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the size of the atherosclerotic plaque detected in the cardiovascular tissue is estimated as a correlate of the percent of the injected dose of detectably labeled antibody to another site in the body that does not contain atherosclerotic plaques.

31. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the imaging method is used as a means to monitor the progression or regression of atherosclerotic disease.

32. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the imaging method is used as a prognostic indicator of pathology of an atherosclerotic plaque.

33. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein an antigen or related epitope of the detectably labeled antibody is administered to the host to reduce residual label in the blood after introduction of the detectably labeled antibody into the host.

34. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group comprising of radioisotopes, paramagnetic labels, echogenic liposomes, biotin, and fluorescence.

35. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detection method is selected from the group comprising magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computer axial tomography (CAT) scan, positron emission tomography (PET) scan, electron beam, computed tomography (CT) scan, single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging, gamma imaging, angiography, intravascular ultrasound, and intravascular radioactive and fluorescent detection.

36. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the binding of said antibody to the vascular tissue is indicative of plaques that are susceptible to rupture.

37. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein detection of binding of said antibody is effected by whole body imaging.

38. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detection of binding of said antibody is effected at a specific site or sites.

39. (new) The method as in Claim 38, wherein said site is the carotid artery.

40. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the host is a person undergoing treatment with a therapeutic agent for the treatment of atherosclerosis.

41. (new) The method as in Claim 40, wherein the detection is effected after treatment.

42. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein said antibody inhibits uptake of oxidized LDL by macrophages.

43. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the antibody comprises the variable light chain is encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID 1 and a variable heavy chain encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID 2.

44. (new) The method as in Claim 27, wherein said subject is a human having or suspected of having atherosclerotic disease.

45. (new) The method as in Claim 44, which further comprises angiography.